UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/1995/L.66
28 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1995
Geneva, 26 June-28 July 1995
Agenda item 4

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1995/L.31

Overall guidance on operational activities for development to the United Nations funds and programmes

The Economic and Social Council

1. Decides, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, to provide to the United Nations funds and programmes the following policy guidance on operational activities for development, so as to ensure that the policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis;

2. Requests the United Nations funds and programmes, in their response to the increasing needs of developing countries, to take into account General Assembly resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and 46/151 of 18 December 1991 on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, and to continue to give high priority in their budget allocations to the least developed countries, low income countries and Africa;

3. Also requests the United Nations funds and programmes to take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition;

4. Further requests the United Nations funds and programmes to take into account the specific needs and requirements of different regions;

5. Requests the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, in establishing their priorities, to take fully into account the relevant conclusions and recommendations of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with their respective mandates, also bearing in mind national plans and priorities and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

6. Requests the United Nations funds and programmes to improve coherence in their country programmes, inter alia, by considering the possibility of joint or consecutive meetings of the Executive Boards, where practicable, on country programmes, and by improving the link between their country programmes and the country strategy notes, where in place, bearing in mind the need for cooperation between external donors and the United Nations funds and programmes in this field;

7. Requests the heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996, through their Executive Boards, on the steps taken to further refine and effectively apply procedures for:

(a) The overall impact an performance of United Nations funds and programmes and measures to ensure that higher priority is given to monitoring and evaluation activities and to the implementation of findings, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

(b) Strengthening national capacity for the management and coordination of international assistance;

(c) Improving national participation in the process of evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance provided by the United Nations funds and programmes;

(d) Promoting greater collaboration among United Nations funds and programmes in the evaluation of their activities;

8. Requests the Executive Boards, in their reports to the Council, to identify specific problems, opportunities and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis, and to make appropriate proposals, which should be further analysed as a basis for recommendations to the Council, to ensure that the policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis;

9. Invites the specialized agencies, where appropriate, to identify specific problem areas for consideration by the Council in line with paragraph 8 above;

10. Requests the United Nations funds and programmes, in the context of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, to report jointly to the Council through

the Secretary-General on questions relating to coordination, cooperation and the division of labour, and on other issues they consider appropriate;

11. Also requests the United Nations funds and programmes, and invites specialized agencies, to explore the scope for improving the cost-effectiveness of administrative services, including the possible use of common administrative services at the field level, with the aim of strengthening programme delivery, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1996;

12. Urges the United Nations funds and programmes to improve the personnel management system for resident coordinators and other senior managers.